



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 15

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 5, 1959

Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

OLDEST AND YOUNGEST

Senator Theodore Green of Rhode Island, who became 91 last October, is the oldest lawmaker now serving in Congress. He has been in the Senate since 1936. The youngest man in the Senate is 34-year-old Frank Church of Idaho, a Senator since 1957.

THEIR AVERAGE AGES

Speaking of age, the 86th Congress will be younger by 1½ years, on an average, than its predecessor. The average age of the incoming Senate members is 57, while that for the House occupants is just above 52.

OUR STATE CHART

Teachers who subscribe to 15 or more copies of the AMERICAN OBSERVER are eligible for a free copy of our 2-color wall chart—"The United States in Facts and Figures." Others can obtain copies for \$1 each.

The chart contains 40 columns of the latest geographic, economic, social, and political facts about the 49 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. It also contains 3 large inset maps, showing rivers, mountains, dams, and other information.

A VISITOR FROM MOSCOW

Will Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan discuss the Berlin crisis and other big world problems with American leaders during his January visit here? Or is he visiting America chiefly to seek an increase in trade between Russia and America?

Whatever the purpose of Mikoyan's trip, it might bring important results. It is the first visit to America of a high-ranking Soviet leader in some time. Mikoyan, who directs Russia's overseas trade programs, is thought to be one of the most powerful Soviet leaders after Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

THE HOUSE GROWS

The U. S. House of Representatives, with 436 members, will be larger in the 86th Congress than ever before. Alaska's new representative will increase House seats from the old figure of 435 to 436.

Congress fixed the House membership at 435 in 1914. Hence, unless the lawmakers decide to change this rule, the number of representatives will have to be reduced to that figure. Meanwhile, the House will continue to have 436 members at least until 1960, when Uncle Sam makes a new census count. After that, House seats will be divided among the states on the basis of their new population figures.

MORE AMERICANS

When the nation's census-takers count noses sometime next year, they are expected to come up with a total population figure of nearly 180,000,000 Americans.



CAN HE keep the wind in his favor and carry France toward new greatness?

Comeback for France

De Gaulle Is Acting Vigorously to Strengthen His Nation At Home and to Restore Its Prestige Abroad

NOWHERE in the free world are more striking changes taking place than in France.

• A year ago, this big European nation was paralyzed by an ineffective government with a weak executive and a bickering legislature. Today, a remodeled government with a strong executive and newly elected lawmakers (most of whom support the executive) is promising a new era.

• A year ago, the French communists—with 145 seats in the Assembly—were a stumbling block to effective action in the lawmaking body. Today, the Reds' representatives have been reduced to 10, and their lawmaking influence is eliminated.

• A year ago, France was faced with rising hostility in its colonial holdings. Today, most of these lands are enjoying friendlier ties with France than ever before.

• A year ago (and this may be the most significant change of all), millions of Frenchmen despaired of their country's future. Today, this despair has turned to hope and confidence that France is again going to become a great and responsible nation.

U. S. leaders are looking upon these developments with deep satisfaction.

The weakness of France, long an ally of ours, has been a source of serious concern in recent years. Her central location in western Europe makes her a key nation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the free world's 15-nation defense group. A revitalized France can be a bulwark against communist aggression.

De Gaulle to power. A year ago, this famous army general and hero of World War II was living quietly in retirement in his country village. Throughout the nation, dissatisfaction was widespread over the armed conflict in Algeria. In the capital city of Paris, lawmakers of the Fourth Republic wrangled endlessly on how to end the fighting.

Last spring, the crisis became acute. The possibility of an army revolt and civil war confronted the country. At this point, French army groups in Algeria demanded that De Gaulle be brought to power. Faced with the threat of civil strife, the Assembly voted him into office as Premier and granted him special powers, including the right to govern France—without the help of lawmakers—for a period of 6 months.

(Continued on page 6)

Congress Begins Its 1959 Session

Lawmaking Body Faces Great Problems as It Convenes In Washington, D. C.

A NEW session of Congress opens Wednesday, January 7. It is generally agreed that national defense, foreign policy, farm questions, labor legislation, federal spending, civil rights, and changes in Senate rules are among the outstanding problems facing the lawmakers.

Defense. Funds for this purpose are now being spent at a rate of more than 40 billion dollars per year. They account for slightly over half of our national government's total outlay. It is clear that there can be no sizable reduction in next year's military costs. On the contrary, an increase may be required.

In any event, President Eisenhower's forthcoming recommendations on defense spending are sure to be the subject of much congressional debate. Various lawmakers will undoubtedly feel that the military budget contains unnecessary items which should be eliminated. Other senators and representatives will, as in previous sessions, insist that the Administration's defense program is dangerously inadequate.

Members of this latter group have repeatedly urged a rapid strengthening of our military forces—and a speed-up in the U. S. missiles program—even if it means higher taxes.

President Eisenhower and his aides, meanwhile, believe that our military program in recent years has been adequate and well balanced. They argue that months of careful planning have gone into the preparation of the new defense budget, and they will urge Congress to follow the recommendations it contains.

Foreign policy. Here is another subject directly related to the security of our nation. Many Democrats contend that the Eisenhower Administration has shown lack of foresight in dealing with international problems, and has merely drifted from one crisis to another. President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles are accused of letting America's world influence and prestige decline sharply. Charges of this nature will be voiced frequently in Congress.

Defenders of the Administration reply that President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles are handling our foreign policy skillfully despite tremendous difficulties—and that they have managed to prevent armed conflict in many situations where war had seemed almost unavoidable.

One vital question to be decided in the field of foreign relations is: How much money should we spend on overseas aid? In the current year, the

(Continued on page 2)

Congress Meets

(Continued from page 1)

nation is spending nearly 3½ billion dollars for this purpose—largely in an effort to help friendly nations resist the danger of Soviet and Red Chinese expansion.

Numerous lawmakers condemn foreign aid as a waste of taxpayers' money. They view it as an expense that weakens our whole national economy. Republican Representative Clare Hoffman of Michigan has stated the case in this way: "I cannot support a program which calls for the expendi-

turn for an end to acreage restrictions on that crop. (Farmers who raise certain other crops, though, have voted for continued acreage limitations and relatively high price supports.)

Labor & industry. In this field, several different issues are likely to arise. There is widespread agreement as to the need for measures to curb racketeers who prey on labor and industry, but lawmakers are expected to clash over how far-reaching any such legislation should be.

Labor leaders, meanwhile, will urge Congress to outlaw the "right-to-work" measures which exist in 19 of our states. These state laws now prohibit union shop agreements (labor-

On many recent occasions, President Eisenhower has expressed deep concern over the government's huge outlays, and over the continued growth of our national debt, which now totals approximately 283 billion dollars. Presidential orders to the various administrative agencies have emphasized the need for rigid economy, and Mr. Eisenhower is expected to stress the same point in his messages to Congress.

Certain senators and representatives may contend that the President and his aides are not going far enough in their economy drive, and that the Administration's budget requests are still too high. Meanwhile, others will

adoption of civil rights bills this year:

(1) Many congressmen argue that the whole matter should be left to our states and local communities. They believe the federal government has already gone too far in the civil rights field. Senator Richard Russell of Georgia is among the leaders of this group.

(2) Other lawmakers, including Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon Johnson of Texas, are against taking action until the federal Commission on Civil Rights makes its recommendations. This body, created under the 1957 civil rights law for the purpose of studying discrimination problems, is to make a detailed report of its findings by next September.

(3) Various congressmen, such as Democratic Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and GOP Senator Clifford Case of New Jersey, seek immediate measures to step up federal action on behalf of minority groups.

Many other questions and issues await Congress. There will be proposals for increased spending on federal school aid, on highway and airport development, on water conservation projects, and on plans to help our cities clear away their slums. Added social security benefits will almost certainly be discussed.

Senate Democratic Leader Johnson says we need a federal assistance program for certain areas that aren't sharing fully in the country's general prosperity. He also wants an expanded "program to develop the peaceful uses of the atom," and he calls for increased emphasis on the probing of outer space.

Much interest is centered on the question of admitting Hawaii as our 50th state.

Observers predict that critics of the Supreme Court will make new efforts to limit the high tribunal's powers.

Senate rules. Before the Senate starts to work on any of the foregoing issues, it faces a battle over its own methods of operation. The question is: Should the upper house adopt rules that would make it easier than at present to stop lengthy debates and bring proposed legislation to a vote?

Under regulations that have long existed, senators are generally allowed to speak for unlimited periods of time on any subject. Senate Rule No. 22 outlines a seldom-used process known as *closure* (or *cloture*) for curbing debate. Whenever it is invoked, each senator is allowed to speak for 1 hour at most, and then a vote is taken on the measure that is up for consideration. This device, though, can hardly ever be employed, since it requires agreement by two-thirds of the entire Senate.

The difficulty in limiting Senate debate gives rise to a practice known as *filibustering* (see historical background article on page 8), in which lawmakers speak at great length for the express purpose of delaying or preventing action on a particular measure. Filibustering is sometimes called "talking a bill to death."

Quite a few lawmakers now favor changing Rule 22 so as to simplify the job of shutting off Senate debate. Some think it should be made possible, under certain conditions, for a *majority* (50) of the senators—rather than the present *two-thirds* (66)—to invoke closure. Others favor changes that wouldn't be quite so far-reaching.

Still others, such as Democratic Senator Herman Talmadge of Georgia, want no additional limitations on



U. S. CAPITOL is busy place as new session of Congress opens. View shows east front as it has been for years. Scaffolding covers much of it now as workmen carry on task of extending central portion of front (below dome) outward 32½ feet—to bring it in line with Senate and House wings. Job will be finished for 1961 Presidential inauguration.

ture of billions of additional dollars, when doing so will bring . . . suffering and hardship to our own people, bleed us white, and . . . drastically lessen—if not destroy—our ability to defend ourselves."

On the other hand, many congressmen regard foreign aid projects as an essential part of our competition against Russia for world influence. They agree with newsman Howard K. Smith. He argues that the need for such projects is beyond dispute, and that our only question should be: "What is the most effective way to [handle] them?"

Agriculture. For a number of years, the federal government has operated a price support system, designed to keep the prices of farm crops from falling below certain levels. At the same time, in an effort to curb the growth of surpluses that drive agricultural prices downward, it has imposed limits on the acreage that farmers can devote to various crops such as wheat, corn, and cotton. It has done this with the farmers' approval, as expressed in special elections.

To a large extent, however, the effort at controlling surpluses has failed. Vast quantities of excess farm products have accumulated. The government itself owns more than 5½ billion dollars' worth of these commodities outright, and holds another 2 billion dollars' worth as security on loans to farmers.

In view of this lack of success in curbing overproduction, should Congress make extensive revisions in the government's complicated farm program? Viewpoints, even within each party, differ sharply on this extremely difficult question.

There is evidence that many farmers favor substantial changes. In an election among corn producers not long ago, 71% voted to accept a reduction in price supports on corn, in re-

management pacts which require workers to join unions shortly after being employed).

The labor groups also call for changes in the federal minimum wage law, which sets \$1 per hour as the lowest permissible wage in certain industries that conduct business across state lines. Union officials argue that the minimum should be raised to \$1.25, and that the law should be extended to cover additional workers.

Political observers foresee a great deal of opposition to labor's demands in connection with the right-to-work measures and the minimum wage law, and these issues are likely to cause bitter congressional struggles.

Spending & taxes. During the present fiscal—or bookkeeping—year, which ends next June, the federal government is to spend about 80 billion dollars. This probably will be 12 billion more than it receives as revenue.

argue that it should be considered normal for the government in a prosperous and growing nation to spend large sums—not only on defense and foreign aid, but also for various welfare projects at home.

As to new laws on taxes, Congress undoubtedly will receive a wide variety of proposals. But, for the time being, there is no strong sign of any general increase or reduction in tax rates.

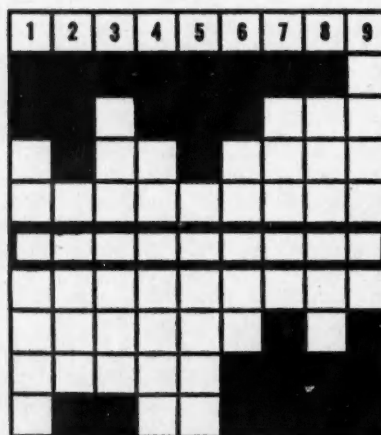
Civil rights. In 1957, Congress enacted a law whose main purpose was to help protect the voting rights of Negroes and other minority groups. Certain lawmakers advocate the passage of additional civil rights legislation in 1959. The proposed measures would, in general, step up the federal government's activities in fighting against racial and religious discrimination.

There are 3 main views about the

PUZZLE ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

Fill in numbered rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell the name of a geographical area.

- De Gaulle's biggest challenge is the problem of _____.
- He presides over the Senate.
- Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- _____ crops are a big agricultural problem.
- The leader of the Cuban rebels is Fidel _____.
- Some lawmakers seek a change in the House _____ Committee.
- The _____ French Republic came into being late last year.
- Capital of Cuba.
- France hopes to exploit large oil deposits in the _____ region of Algeria.



Solution for December 15

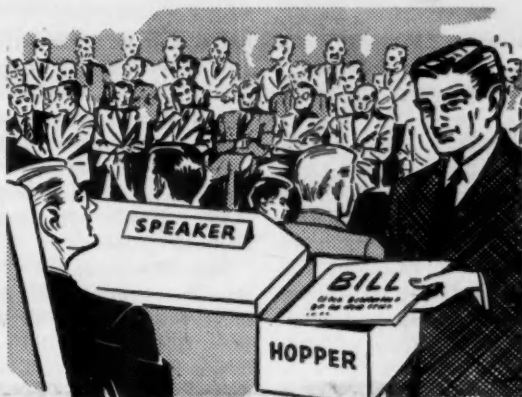
HORIZONTAL: New Guinea. VERTICAL: 1. twenty; 2. Elbe; 3. Hawaii; 4. IGY; 5. Kabul; 6. McKinley; 7. tennis; 8. Belgium; 9. Japan.

Here's How Congress Enacts Our Laws



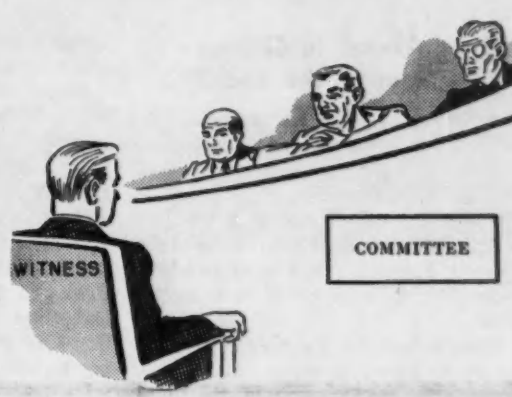
DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

1. A CONGRESSMAN will introduce a bill if he thinks it is needed or if enough people he represents favor it. Various groups of the population—farmers, laborers, businessmen, and veterans, for example—are constantly seeking legislation of one kind or another. Many of these large groups have “lobbyists” whose main job is to exert influence on Congress. Such lobbyists work—both openly and behind the scenes—at every stage of the lawmaking process. Sometimes they appear and state their cases at congressional committee hearings. Members of Congress also get requests and suggestions from private individuals, as well as from organized bodies. Moreover, administrative agencies within the government often ask for certain pieces of legislation. A bill introduced at the request of the President or his chief aides is known as an “Administration measure,” and it usually receives special attention from the lawmakers.

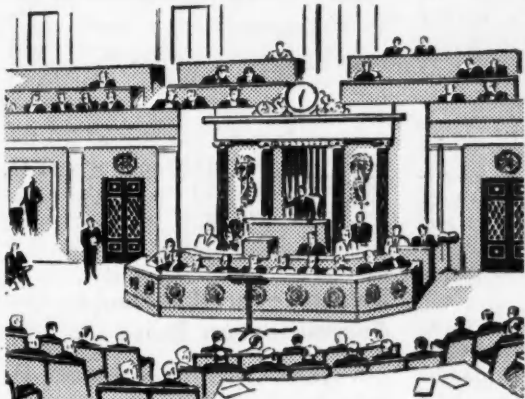


THIS AND FOLLOWING DRAWINGS FROM “OUR CAPITOL IN STORY AND PICTURES”

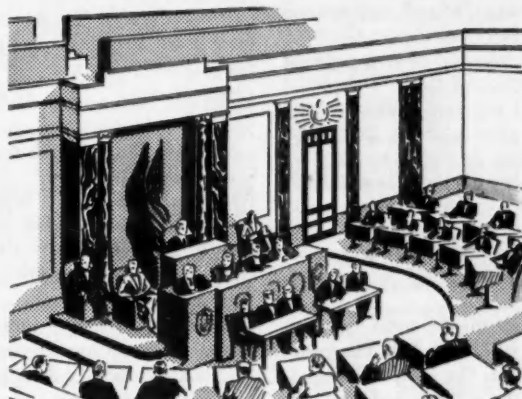
2. ANY MEMBER of Congress can introduce bills. Legislation dealing with taxes must start in the House of Representatives, but action on other subjects can be launched in either branch of the nation's lawmaking body. While a proposed law is generally called a “bill,” there are additional types of measures known as “resolutions.” Certain resolutions, for example, are used in proposing Constitutional amendments. When a member of the House desires to introduce any kind of measure, he simply places it in the “hopper” near the Speaker's desk. The Senate is somewhat more formal. There, during a time especially reserved for this purpose, a member may rise and state that he has a bill or a resolution to introduce. A page carries it to the Secretary's desk. After being introduced in either house, a measure is numbered and then sent to one of the congressional committees for thorough examination and for possible revision.



3. COMMITTEE WORK—one of the most important steps in lawmaking. Bills receive more detailed examination in committee than is possible on the House or Senate floor. There are 20 regular committees in the House, and 16 in the Senate. The majority party in each house controls the committees. Both the Senate and House of Representatives have separate committees to deal with different subjects—such as agriculture, appropriations, and foreign affairs. Moreover, there are several joint committees, with members from both houses. During its study of a bill, a committee often holds public hearings—where people who are especially interested in the proposed law give their views. The committee can recommend changes in a bill. Also, it can block—or “pigeonhole”—the measure by refusing to send it to the House or Senate floor. Leaders of major committees in each branch of Congress are among the most influential figures in our national government.



4. HOUSE DEBATE and vote. Suppose a bill is introduced in the House of Representatives and sent to one of that body's committees. If approved by the committee, it is given a place on the House calendar—or schedule. When brought to the House floor, usually through the Rules Committee, it is debated. At this stage, too, the proposal is likely to receive numerous amendments. Eventually, there is a vote on the bill as a whole. Ordinary measures are passed by a simple majority, but proposed Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority. At times, each lawmaker's vote is tabulated and put on public record; at other times, it is not. If a bill finally wins House approval, it goes to the Senate. (If it had started in the Senate, it would have been considered and debated in much the same manner there before proceeding to the House of Representatives.)



5. IN THE SENATE—after House passage—our bill goes to a committee for further study and possible amendment. If approved by the committee, it goes to the floor of the Senate for debate and vote. Suppose the bill passes the Senate with some new amendments added. The House may decide to accept these changes without further controversy; but, if not, a “conference committee” of senators and representatives seeks to iron out the differences. Then both houses are required to vote on the compromise bill which is drawn up by this group. Senators, of course, take action on certain matters that never reach the House. Treaties with foreign nations are approved by a two-thirds vote in the Senate, while Presidential appointments of various U. S. officials are confirmed by majority vote. (Most measures, however, must go through both branches of Congress.)



6. APPROVED by Congress, the measure goes to the President. If he signs the bill, it becomes law. Sometimes he uses several pens for this job, then distributes them to congressmen and other persons as souvenirs. On the other hand, the President may disapprove—or veto—the act. In this case, lawmakers can still put it into effect if they “pass it over his veto” by a two-thirds majority in each house. Otherwise the measure dies. If a bill which has been sent to the President remains on his desk for 10 days while Congress stays in session, the measure becomes a law. But if Congress adjourns before the end of the 10-day period, the President can kill—or “pocket veto”—the bill by merely refusing to sign it. (Proposed amendments to the U. S. Constitution are not signed by the President, but before taking effect they must be approved by three-fourths of our states.)

Senate speeches. So long as debate is practically unrestricted, says Talmadge, senators who find themselves outnumbered can speak at length in order to prevent hasty and ill-considered action by the majority. “Free debate,” according to the Georgia lawmaker, provides “a restraint upon the abuses of unbridled majority rule.”

Republican Senator Jacob Javits of New York, on the other hand, wants the upper house to adopt new means of curbing lengthy speeches and debates. Under our Constitution, he argues, “voting is the final method of [settling] national issues.” When senators deliver long talks in order to keep certain measures from being voted upon, he continues, they make “a mockery of freedom of speech by

confusing it with freedom to obstruct.”

The outcome of the dispute over filibusters and Senate closure may have a big influence on what Congress does about the civil rights issue. Senators have sometimes used the threat of a filibuster to block new legislation in this field.

(For details on a conflict over rule changes in the House of Representatives, see note on page 4.)

Congress is enlarged by 3 voting members from the new state of Alaska, and so this year it is to have 436 representatives and 98 senators.

Democrats will hold a sizable majority in each branch. There are to be 64 Democrats and 34 Republicans in the Senate, 283 Democrats and 153

Republicans in the House of Representatives. This means that Democratic leaders will head the various congressional committees, which play a vital role in our lawmaking process.

Sam Rayburn—Texas Democrat—is to serve as Speaker (or chairman) of the House, as he has for a number of years. But a leading Republican, Richard Nixon, will preside over the Senate—as the U. S. Vice President always does, whether or not he belongs to the party that controls Congress.

Even with their big majority, the Democrats won't necessarily have their own way on every issue. This is because they may, at times, be divided among themselves. It is seldom that either party votes as a solid bloc on questions of legislation. On issues

which have arisen up to now, Republican President Eisenhower has had a number of supporters and opponents in each party.

In the months ahead, as Congress takes up various national and world problems, we shall discuss the questions involved. —By TOM MYER

Pronunciations

Akihito—ä-kë-hë-tō
 Andres Rivero Aguero—än-dräs' rë-vë-rō ä-gwä'rō
 Charles de Gaulle—shärl' düh gōl'
 Fidel Castro—fë-dë'l' käs'trō
 Fulgencio Batista—fool-hen'sëe-ō bätës'tä
 Juan Peron—hwän pë-räwn'
 Konrad Adenauer—kôn'rät ä'duh-now-er
 Michiko Shoda—mî-chî-kō shō-dä

The Story of the Week

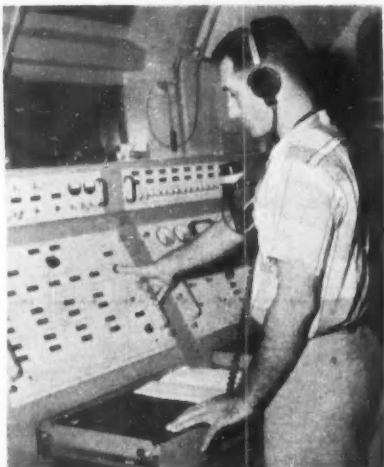
Who's Ahead in Science—Uncle Sam or the Reds?

Scientists and other experts disagree on whether we or the Russians are ahead in the conquest of space and in the development of war missiles. Everyone agrees, though, that we have made great strides in these fields since Moscow put man's first earth satellite—Sputnik I—into orbit in October 1957.

Here is how the 2 sides compare, as we go to press, in space and missile projects on the basis of *known facts* and the estimates of experts:

Earth satellites. Russia has launched 3, the largest an 11-foot vehicle weighing some 3,000 pounds. (It was 1 of 2 sections which weighed 11,000 pounds when launched.) America has sent aloft 5, the biggest an 85-foot Atlas missile weighing 8,700 pounds.

Missiles and planes. Uncle Sam has 1,500-mile missiles ready for use, and a 6,300-mile weapon has been successfully tested. Other newer missiles are



"GO" BUTTON. Operator at Cape Canaveral base has finger on button that launches Army space rockets

in testing stage. Moscow is said to have missiles in the 1,000-mile range ready for use, a weapon with an 8,700-mile range, plus an atomic-powered plane. President Eisenhower says Reds may have these missiles, but doubts they have nuclear plane.

Outer space probes. America shot 2 rockets toward the moon, one going over 70,000 miles and the other traveling some 66,000 miles into space. It isn't known what Russia has done in this field at our press time.

Radio and TV Programs Well Worth Following

College News Conference, Sunday, 1:00 p.m., EST, ABC-TV. Moderator: Ruth Hagy. College students question top news personalities.

Face the Nation, Sunday, 12:30 p.m., EST, CBS-TV. Moderator: Stuart Novins. Reporters question top public leaders from all over the world.

Meet the Press, Sunday, 6:00 p.m., EST, NBC-TV. Moderator: Ned Brooks. Newsmen quiz leading public figures.

Capitol Assignment, Monday, 8:35 p.m., EST, MBS-Radio. Moderators: Charles Warren and Robert Hurleigh. Leading news analysts discuss stories behind the news.

The Leading Question, Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., EST, CBS-TV. Moderator:

Lewis Shollenberger. Newsmen and guests discuss big national issues.

Small World, Sunday, 6:00 p.m., EST, CBS-TV. Edward R. Murrow interviews global personalities.

In addition to these regular radio and TV shows, **Primer of Congress** will begin today, January 5, on NBC-TV. The special series will be shown on the "Today" show daily through Friday at 7:30 a.m., EST. It will explain how laws are made on Capitol Hill, and give brief sketches of leading legislators.

Space Probes and Missiles Will Make Big Headlines

During the coming year, Uncle Sam will try to put 12 or more 1,300-pound earth satellites spinning around the globe. He also hopes to reach the moon with a rocket late this month or early February, or again later in the year.

In addition, American military leaders say the 6,300-mile Atlas missile, capable of carrying nuclear weapons to the other side of the globe, may be in the hands of our combat teams by the end of this year.

The non-military space programs are under the supervision of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Missiles and other related space activities are handled by the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). Each branch of the armed forces—the Army, Navy, and Air Force—works on military space and missile projects under ARPA supervision.

What Does 1959 Have In Store for Us?

Will price tags on the goods we buy go up or down in 1959? Will the year-end recovery from the 1957-1958 business slump continue its upward trend? What about unemployment? Will jobless rolls shrink or grow in '59?

No one knows for certain, of course, just what the new year has in store for us. But here, in brief, is what the U. S. Departments of Labor, Commerce, and Agriculture, as well as certain business leaders, predict for the coming year:

Food prices, especially on certain types of meat, eggs, and vegetables, are likely to go down a bit. But prices on many of the other things we buy, including clothing and home appli-

ances, may go up slightly. So will the cost of medical and dental care.

The auto industry, hard hit by last year's slump, can look forward to a fairly good year in 1959. Good car sales will help improve business for many other related industries. The construction of new homes may set an all-time record.

More Americans are likely to have jobs than ever before. But unemployment will continue to be a problem for a time. Before the regular spring business pick-up gets under way, there may be some 4,500,000 jobless.

Capitol Hill Leaders Prepare for New Session

These 6 men will play prominent roles in the meetings of Congress which will get under way this week.

Richard Nixon, who will be 46 this week, is the nation's Vice President. As such, he presides over the Senate and performs other duties. A Republican from California, Nixon was a senator and representative before becoming Vice President in 1953.

Sam Rayburn, who celebrates his 77th birthday tomorrow, January 6, is a Democratic representative from Texas and Speaker of the House. He has represented Texas on Capitol Hill ever since 1913, and has presided over the House during 14 of the past 18 years—longer than anyone else in history.

Lyndon Johnson, 50, a Texas Democrat, is majority floor leader in the Senate. He served in the U. S. House of Representatives for 11 years and has been in the Senate since 1949. He tries to get Democratic senators to work as a team.

Everett Dirksen, who turned 63 yesterday, January 4, was expected to be Senate minority floor leader, but he has faced considerable opposition by a group which feels that the GOP—if it is to win victories again—must make faster changes than Dirksen and certain others favor. Dirksen, a former Illinois representative, was elected to the Senate in 1950.

John McCormack, 67, another Massachusetts lawmaker, is House majority leader—he does the same thing for the Democratic Party in the House that Martin does for the Republicans. McCormack has served in this body since 1927.

Joseph Martin, 74, Republican rep-



Nixon



Rayburn



Johnson



Dirksen



McCormack



Martin

LEADERS in the 86th Congress

representative from Massachusetts, is minority leader of the House. His job is to promote maximum cooperation among Republican representatives. He has been a member of the House since 1925, and has served as Speaker.

Debate over the House Committee on Rules

While the U. S. Senate faces an early showdown fight over filibustering (see story on page 1), the House also appears to be heading for a sharp controversy over rules. Certain representatives want to curtail the far-reaching powers of the Committee on Rules.

This 12-member committee has almost life-and-death control over measures that come up for debate in the House. As a rule, it decides which bills are to be brought to the floor of the House, and how much time can be spent on each specific measure.

Congressmen who want to clip Rules Committee powers argue that the entire House, not just 12 members of the steering group, should help decide which bills are to be considered by the lawmakers. House members in favor of the present arrangement contend that the Rules Committee can best do the important job of sifting useful from worthless and time-consuming legislative proposals.

Latin America Faces Some Tough Problems

As the new year begins, many of our Latin American neighbors are in trouble. Rising prices at home and a decline in world demand for such items as coffee, copper, tin, and wool—goods that Latin Americans must sell abroad for a livelihood—are only a few of the problems that plague our southern neighbors.

We are now working with lands



MISSILES EXPERT Wernher von Braun (right) was a recent guest on "Meet the Press"—NBC-TV's informative Sunday evening program on which prominent leaders are interviewed. With the scientist is Lawrence Spivak, program director.

south of the border to help improve their lot. Late last year, we and the 20 Latin American republics prepared new economic development plans, for which we have agreed to provide loans. It remains to be seen how well these programs will work out.

Meanwhile, Argentina is faced with a threat that supporters of ex-dictator Juan Peron may try a come-back for their exiled leader.

Rival groups in Venezuela, where a Presidential election was held last month, continue to vie for the leadership of that country.

(For a report on trouble in Cuba, see story on page 7.)

What Is Outlook for Germany's West Berlin?

One of the most explosive problems facing the world at this time concerns the future of West Berlin.

In November, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev called for the withdrawal of western troops from West Berlin, and he later demanded that it be made a "free city" independent of outside control. Khrushchev gave the free world 6 months to accept his proposal, after which time he threatened to put the plan into effect regardless of western actions.

Moscow's West Berlin proposal is obviously a trick to gain the city for the Reds. The old German capital is 110 miles inside Soviet-dominated East Germany. Hence, the communists are in a position to choke off West Berlin's supply lines to the outside world. With western troops gone, Moscow could undoubtedly force the city into the Red camp.

West Berliners have already shown how they feel about Khrushchev's "free city" idea. In last month's election for local lawmakers, over 98% of the voters supported leaders pledged to keep their city lined up with the western powers. The communists didn't win a single seat in West Berlin's legislature!

Will the communists carry on another prolonged blockade of West Berlin, as they did in 1948-49, and

use other forceful methods in the effort to achieve their goal? Can this dangerous issue eventually be settled by negotiation?

The answers to these questions are of the utmost importance.

Basketball Is Nation's Top-Ranking Sport

In 1891, Dr. James Naismith, an instructor at what is now Springfield College, hung up peach baskets at opposite ends of a small gymnasium, and instructed students to throw a ball into the baskets.

From this modest start, basketball has become the most popular team sport in American high schools. There are many more school basketball players today than there are baseball, football, or track participants.

Almost all larger high schools across the nation will have basketball teams this winter. More than 100,000,000 people are expected to watch these school games.

If the game's popularity continues to spread, basketball may some day establish itself as the leading team sport throughout the world. In the past dozen years or so, it has caught on rapidly in Europe, Asia, and South America.

Japan's Royal Family Changes with the Times

Japan is getting ready for an impressive and colorful ceremony—the marriage of Crown Prince Akihito to Michiko Shoda. The marriage is to take place this year, though the exact date has not yet been fixed.

The decision of Prince Akihito—who is heir to the Japanese throne—to marry Miss Shoda breaks with more than 1,500 years of tradition and custom, for the Empress-to-be is the daughter of a Tokyo businessman. In the past, Japanese Crown Princes were required to choose their brides from members of a few noble families.

Prince Akihito learned English and the ways of democracy from an American teacher. He has traveled ex-



SKATING IS POPULAR in New York City's Central Park, which lies at edge of the business area. The ice above is man-made, and doesn't depend on the weather.

tensively abroad, and visited the United States in 1953.

The Prince, who is now 25, must spend a great deal of time at official ceremonies. But he finds time for sports. In fact, he met his 24-year-old future bride on the tennis court.

Mao Tse-tung's Future Is Topic for Guesswork

Mao Tse-Tung, who has long been head of the Chinese Communist Party, seems to have lost some popularity by uprooting families and forcing adults to live and work in groups known as "communes" (see AMERICAN OBSERVER, November 3, 1958).

He is now giving up his post as President of Red China. But he continues as Communist Party chief, and—as such—may still be the nation's real boss.

Poll on Student Citizenship Habits

This paper is making a survey of high school students to test their interest in major national and international problems of the day. We shall report the results as soon as possible.

The success of this undertaking depends on the cooperation of our readers. Even if most of your answers are negative, we shall appreciate your filling out this form with candid replies, and then clipping and mailing it to Student Poll, 1733 K St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

1. Do you regularly read the editorial pages of one or more newspapers? _____ How many? _____

2. Do you regularly read the views of leading columnists in the daily press? _____ Which ones? _____

3. Do you regularly listen to radio and television discussion programs on public affairs? _____ Which ones? _____

4. Do you regularly read adult magazines dealing with current affairs? _____ Which ones? _____

Readers Say—

Our history class, after discussing juvenile delinquency, concluded that there should be more censorship of comics, movies, and TV programs because of the extent to which they play up violence. Their influence in this respect has been very harmful. We also feel that more youth clubs should be established, and teen-agers urged to join.

BERTHA HIGGINS and
SUSAN STANLEY,
Hinsdale, New Hampshire

In too many places the general opinion is that delinquency can be stamped out by force. If more attempts were made to correct rather than punish youth, solutions could be found to prevent juvenile delinquency.

ROBERT STEPHAN,
Antigo, Wisconsin

Your recent article on juvenile crime was very good. It is encouraging to read reports on the promising side of the problem, rather than those continually telling about the bad conduct of youth.

JUDY BROWN,
Carpenter, Iowa

I disagree with the letter in the November 10 issue which said we should follow a completely hostile policy toward the Soviet Union. The writer seems to regard our cultural exchanges with Russia as folly. Does she have a better solution to the problem of bridging the gap between the 2 nations? The common people of Russia will never learn the advantages of the capitalistic system if they have no contact with its representatives.

I do not advocate letting down our guard, but an aggressive or negative attitude is dangerous, too.

PETER RYCKMAN,
East Liverpool, Ohio

We should wake up and recognize Russia as a technological enemy, as well as a military one. If we do not press our various research programs, that communist nation will inevitably become the world's greatest industrial power.

JIM BERRY,
Christensen, Illinois

There should be a federal "right-to-work" law. A basic American concept is that a man has a right to work and prosper according to his own efforts. Forced union membership is a socialistic trend that should be stopped by federal action.

JIM TRESNER,
Enid, Oklahoma

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Boy on his birthday: Thank goodness, I'm 11 at last.

Friend: Why's that so important to you?

Boy: Because when a grownup goof's off, he's usually accused of acting like a 10-year-old.



"Oh, Linda, the banker's son is here."

The professor asked Sam who had signed the Declaration of Independence. "I don't know and I don't care," was the reply.

The professor called the student's father to his office and explained what had happened the day before.

The father frowned, then turned to Sam and said, "If you signed it, admit it."

A Texas lad rushed home from kindergarten and insisted his mother buy him a set of pistols, holsters, and a gun belt. "Why, whatever for, son?" his mother asked. "You're not going to tell me you need them for school?"

"Yes, I do," he asserted. "Teacher said tomorrow she's going to teach us to draw."

Girls today aren't what they were in 1955. They're 4 years older.

Definition of cactus: An overgrown pin cushion.

"Two," shouted the pint-sized umpire. "Two what?" snarled the big catcher. "Yeah, two what?" echoed the equally large batter. "Too close to tell," replied the umpire.

A 'New' France?

(Continued from page 1)

First step. De Gaulle was convinced that the first step necessary was a remodeling of the government. This would require a new constitution.

One drawback in the Fourth Republic was that the Assembly had as many as 15 political parties with no single group having a majority. The Premier—France's chief executive—could hold office only by getting the support of several parties. When the combination of parties failed to agree and the Premier no longer had the backing of a majority of the Assembly, he and his cabinet had to resign.

So difficult was it for a Premier to keep majority support that the nation had seen 25 Premiers come and go since the end of World War II. France had a President, but he was only a figurehead with little power. Therefore, the Assembly called the tune, often in an irresponsible way.

To remedy this situation, the new constitution provided for a President with strong powers. In various ways, the powers of the Assembly were curbed, including its power to overthrow the government.

In September, the new constitution was approved overwhelmingly by the French people. Later, elections were held for the Assembly. Although De Gaulle himself refused to give his backing to any single party, candidates who declared themselves as his supporters were swept into office in large numbers. At the same time, the communists, who strongly opposed De Gaulle, lost heavily.

Colonial holdings. Not only did De Gaulle take vigorous steps to give France a strong government at home, but he acted boldly to keep her colonial holdings in partnership with the mother country.

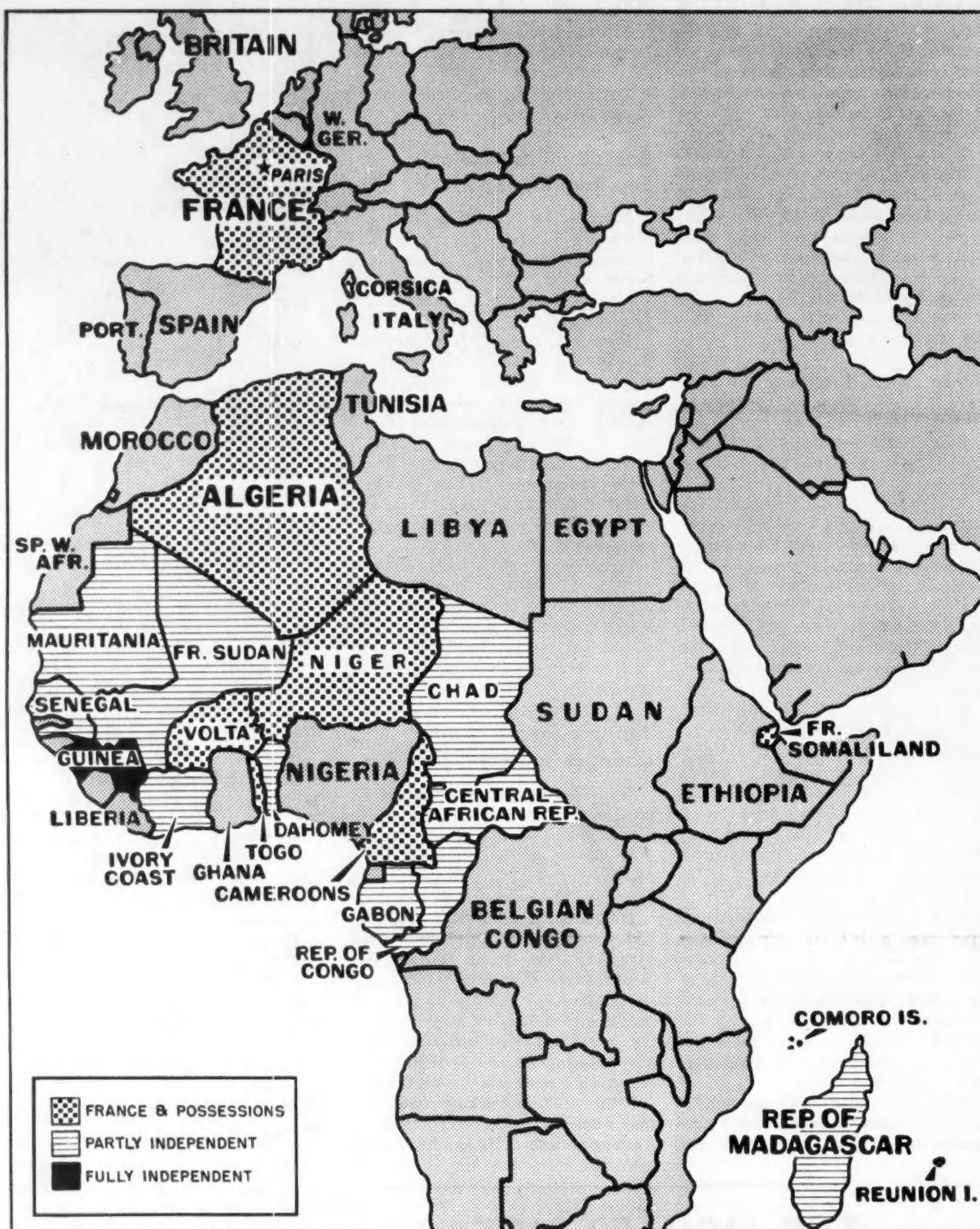
For years, France had resisted independence movements in her territories. She had lost her holdings in Indochina, and was faced with rising unrest in her big territories on the southern side of the Sahara.

Reversing the old policy, De Gaulle offered the African lands immediate freedom, if a majority of the natives wanted it. At the same time, he promised these countries a new status if they retained ties with France. As members of the French Community, an association of lands, they would run their own affairs for the most part, while working toward complete independence at a future date. During this period, France would retain control of foreign affairs and defense.

De Gaulle's offer was received enthusiastically in the African holdings. (It did not apply to Algeria in northern Africa, which is considered by French leaders as a definite part of France.) Only the territory of Guinea voted to sever completely its ties with the mother country.

Many other African areas have voted to become largely self-governing republics within the French Community. They include Madagascar, Senegal, French Sudan, Mauritania, Chad, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, and Dahomey (see accompanying map). Other French lands may become self-governing before this paper is read.

Solid accomplishments. It is on the basis of these solid accomplishments that many Frenchmen predict a bright future for France. De Gaulle has shown himself willing to take firm,



THE AREAS shown as "partly independent" and "fully independent" were French colonies until last September (see article). Other possessions of France may also become largely self-governing, perhaps even before this paper reaches its readers. Tunisia and French Morocco gained complete self-rule from France in 1956.

positive steps to put new life into the government. His approach has been in marked contrast to the "stand pat" policies of so many of the leaders of the Fourth Republic.

Late in December, a presidential election was held in France. Charles de Gaulle became the first President of the Fifth Republic.

Even though De Gaulle has made a good start, he may well run into trouble in the months ahead.

Algeria. Biggest problem of all is the future of Algeria, the strife-torn area that France has long held in North Africa. Despite friendly gestures from De Gaulle, the Moslem rebels who are fighting the French still demand complete independence.

French settlers living in Algeria, which is 4 times larger in area than France itself, advocate forceful action to crush the rebels. They are supported by the French army that has been combating the uprising. The European settlers demand that Algeria be absorbed by mainland France, so that the Moslem majority cannot get

the upper hand. (Population of Algeria: 9,800,000 of whom 1,300,000 are Europeans.)

De Gaulle has indicated that he does not fully support the French settlers in their views. He has approached the Moslem population in a friendly way, and has emphasized that they must be assured of "liberty, happiness, and dignity" before any political settlement can be brought about. He has given no indication that he favors loosening French ties with Algeria in any way, yet he has consistently held that the Moslem population must be treated fairly and must be accorded the rights that are held by European settlers.

De Gaulle was disappointed that, when elections were recently held in Algeria to choose representatives from that African territory to the new Assembly in Paris, only those Moslems who favor working with France took part. The French chief executive had hoped that those who favor independence would also run for office, but rebel leaders would not permit it. It was

De Gaulle's belief that there would be a better chance of working out a settlement if all shades of opinion were represented in the Moslem delegation to the new Assembly.

Meanwhile, the French leader has indicated that he will go ahead with an ambitious economic and social program for Algeria. He is convinced that higher living standards for the native population are, in the long run, the best basis for good relations.

Prosperity. Another problem with which De Gaulle may soon have to grapple is that of keeping France prosperous and financially sound.

This nation of 43,500,000 people with an area of 212,736 square miles enjoys a good balance between industry and farming. Production has been rising steadily in recent years, and there is practically no unemployment. Most Frenchmen are living better than ever before.

Yet France's treasury is low, and she has been buying more abroad than she has been selling to other lands. Rising prices, which have plagued the

DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

nation ever since World War II, are still not checked. Though communists are no longer a threat in the Assembly, they continue to dominate many labor unions and can carry out costly strikes.

The French are hopeful that they will be able to improve their economic situation a great deal by developing the extensive oil and natural gas fields now being explored in the Sahara region of southern Algeria. By 1962, these deposits—plus oil fields under development in Equatorial Africa—are expected to produce 40,000,000 tons of oil a year. That is well above the amount which France presently consumes. Thus, if present plans are carried out, the French will no longer have to buy oil from abroad—instead, they will be able to export some.

Foreign policy. The French leader has moved to achieve close ties with West Germany. In cordial talks with Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany, De Gaulle has done much to eliminate the hatred that helped bring on 2 disastrous wars in this century.

In recent years, France has not been considered a very strong partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Under De Gaulle's leadership, she is expected to play a stronger role in the anti-communist alliance.

Fifth Republic. There are bound to be many problems, too, relating to the new government. One of these concerns the political character of the newly elected Assembly. The 2 major groups are the Union of the New Republic (UNR) and the Independents. Together they hold 320 out of the 465 seats for mainland France.

While most Assembly members of these 2 parties ran in the election as supporters of De Gaulle, some of them are reported to be more conservative than he. They do not want to make reforms as fast as he does, and they do not like to see the French colonial empire being "weakened" by giving dependent territories a large measure of freedom. They are particularly opposed to making any concessions to the Algerian rebels. Though De Gaulle's prestige seems sufficient to hold these groups in line at this moment, he may have more trouble as time goes on.

Since the Assembly is not scheduled to meet until April 28, this issue is hardly a pressing one at the moment. Meanwhile, De Gaulle is expected to run the country as he has done in recent months.

—By HOWARD SWEET



FAVORITE LAND of many U. S. tourists, Cuba today is having serious trouble

Cuba—Scene of Strife

Rebels Claim Batista Is a Dictator

FROM Key West, Florida, it is only half an hour by plane to the modern city of Havana, capital of the island nation of Cuba. The land was discovered by Columbus on his first voyage in 1492, and remained a Spanish possession until 1898. In December of that year, Cuba was



Batista



Castro

ceded to the United States after our victory in the Spanish-American War.

A republic was formed in 1902 and the Cubans gained a large measure of self-government. The United States retained the right until 1934, however, to intervene in Cuban affairs. Although the country now enjoys complete political freedom, its economy is still closely tied to ours.

Cuba is the world's largest producer of sugar. American businesses operate around 1/3 of the country's mills, and our country imports 1/2 of the nation's total sugar production.

Over-all trade figures show Cuba importing nearly 30 times as much from the United States as she does from Great Britain, the nation which ranks second in sales to this Caribbean land. In 1956, Cuba exported 10 times as much to America as she did to her No. 2 customer, Japan.

Since late in 1956, Cuba has been the scene of a revolution which has attracted world-wide attention. The dictatorship of General Fulgencio Batista, established after a military coup in March 1952, has been challenged for the past 2 years by rebels under the leadership of Fidel Castro.

Castro, a man in his early thirties, says that he is fighting to restore democracy to Cuba. He refused to recognize the legality of elections held this fall in which Batista was not a candidate. The rebel chief charges that Batista is really the dictator of Cuba, and that the newly elected President, Andres Rivero Aguero, will serve merely as a figurehead.

Batista contends that the Castro forces refused to participate in the election, because they knew the majority of people would not support them. Castro replies that the election was "rigged" by Batista in such a way that only his candidates had a chance.

The rebels have been most active in Oriente Province in the eastern part of the island. They completely control large parts of the province.

Castro's troops, estimated at several thousand men, are greatly outnumbered by the government army, and are equipped with inferior weapons. So far, they have not been able to score any major gains in open fighting outside of mountainous regions. On the other hand, government troops have been unable to dislodge the rebels from their mountain strongholds.

Cuba has a population of about 6,000,000. The country's per capita income of \$370 ranks third in Latin America (Venezuela and Argentina are first and second).

The island's pleasant climate and numerous points of beauty ordinarily attract large numbers of American visitors. However, the tourist trade is off more than 50% as a result of the civil strife. Castro will attempt to prevent much of this winter's sugar crop from reaching shipping centers. If he succeeds, the Cuban government will be faced with severe economic difficulties.

—By TIM COSS

Power of Habit in Our Everyday Lives

By Clay Coss

AS we begin a new year, it's worthwhile to review the habits, both good and bad, which we have formed up to now. All of us are, to a very large extent, creatures of habit. When we follow a certain pattern of life for a period of time, it is hard for us to change our ways.

As a matter of fact, whether our habits are desirable or otherwise, they stick with us stubbornly. If we want to break or change them, it usually requires quite a while to achieve our aim.

In one way this is *discouraging*; in another, it's *encouraging*. A person, realizing how hard it is to change a bad habit, may be reluctant to make the effort. On the other hand, he knows that if he can pursue the right course of action for a long enough time, it will become increasingly easy to continue doing so. In fact, it will be as hard to get off this new path as it was the old one.

Why not, as the new year begins, make a list of your habits which you consider to be bad ones? You undoubtedly know what you are doing right and what you're doing wrong.

For example, how are your study habits? Do you concentrate on your lessons, both at school and when you're doing homework? Do you write down assignments, so there will be no doubt about what you're to do? Do you pay close attention to discussions in the classroom? Are you really determined to get the most out of your education, or are you just trying to get by with as little effort as possible?



What habits are you forming in your relations with others? Do you consistently display loyalty, cooperation, and thoughtfulness toward your friends and relatives? Do you treat them as you would like them to treat you?

Is it your policy to avoid hurting the feelings of others—to shun gossip, snobbishness, and other acts of meanness which create so much needless unhappiness?

Do you regularly obey the rules of your family and school, as well as the laws of your community and nation?

Are you increasing your interest in and knowledge of public problems so that you can help keep our democracy and nation strong? (See poll on citizenship habits, page 5.)

If you can truthfully answer "yes" to most of these questions, you don't need to worry about your habits. But if several of your answers are in the negative, you will be wise to make some changes in your actions, regardless of how hard it may be at first for you to turn over a new leaf.

KNOW THAT WORD!

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase which has the same general meaning. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. Legislators usually take into consideration the wishes of their *constituents* (kōn-stīt'ū-ēnts). (a) colleagues (b) voters (c) relatives (d) financial backers.

2. A *filibuster* (fil'ī-būs'ter) is sometimes used in an attempt to stop the passage of a bill in the Senate. (a) side issue (b) dramatic appeal (c) Presidential request (d) lengthy speech.

3. It was decided that the proposal would not gain the required number of votes unless it was presented in the form of a *rider* (rid'er). (a) plan to rid the country of high taxes (b)

measure to provide free rides for all congressmen to and from Washington (c) a measure, often controversial, attached to a popular bill.

4. The wording of the *statute* (stāt'ūt) was quite vague. (a) law (b) bill (c) Presidential decree (d) proposed amendment.

5. At the present time, Egypt is largely an *agrarian* (ā-grair'ī-ān) land. (a) underdeveloped (b) agricultural (c) overpopulated (d) impoverished.

6. The climate in much of the country is *enervating* (ēn'er-vāt-ing). (a) invigorating (b) hot and dry (c) weakening (d) healthy.

7. The discovery of penicillin was a *momentous* (mō-mēn'tūs) event. (a) very important (b) stirring (c) accidental (d) highly publicized.

How Minority Has Used Filibuster in Senate

IN 1917, with Europe already fighting World War I, President Wilson asked Congress to let him arm U. S. merchant ships for protection against attack by German submarines at sea. The House approved the request, but trouble arose in the Senate.

A minority group of senators thought that arming the ships would endanger our neutral position in the conflict and would probably lead our country into war. These lawmakers managed to gain control of the Senate floor, and to keep talking so as to prevent a vote.

The President, in anger, charged that a "little group of wilful men" had made the U. S. government "helpless." With his bill lost, Wilson decided he had executive power to arm the ships anyway—and did so. Within 6 weeks, new submarine attacks on our vessels caused us to declare war, and the country united to achieve victory.

The maneuver that blocked the Wilson measure is the well-known *filibuster*. Under Senate rules, if a few members wish to talk "endlessly" in the effort to prevent a bill from being voted upon, it is difficult to prevent them from doing so. An effort is being made early in the new session to change the rules (see page 1 article on Congress).

The Wilson filibuster was by no means the first. In one of the earliest talkathons in 1841, a group of senators shared control of the floor for 10 days to block a piece of legislation they disliked.

One of the strangest was staged in 1890 by Senator Henry Blair of New Hampshire. He filibustered to delay

action on his own bill for federal aid to education. He did so to stop other business until he felt assured of enough votes to pass his measure.

Senator Blair stopped filibustering when it seemed that he had enough promises to gain his objective. However, 2 senators changed their minds at the last minute and the measure failed to pass. Oddly enough, Blair himself voted against it for technical reasons when he saw that he was



SENATOR Huey Long spoke for 15½ hours during Senate filibuster in 1935

losing. By voting *no*, he held the right under Senate rules to ask later for reconsideration of his bill—a right which he would not have enjoyed if he had voted *yes*. As it turned out, however, he never again pressed for the adoption of his measure.

In 1902-03, Senator Albert Beveridge of Indiana put on a filibuster that did not depend on speeches. He

was chairman of a committee on territories and opposed statehood for Arizona and New Mexico. There was a general understanding among legislators that a vote would not be taken if the chairman were absent. Beveridge went into hiding, and the bill finally was abandoned.

Senator Reed Smoot of Utah spoke, with successful results, for 11 hours, 35 minutes in 1915 against a measure for purchasing merchant ships. His filibuster was unusual in that he stuck to the subject throughout his talk. This is rarely done. Some senators have read from unrelated books or articles to hold the floor.

In 1935, for example, Senator Huey Long of Louisiana described turnip greens and the making of corn bread during a 15½-hour speech, which was one of the longest made in the 1930's. He successfully held up congressional passage of a bill to extend a labor-industry measure.

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, in 1953, set a new talkathon record. He spoke for 22 hours and 26 minutes against the federal government's turning over its offshore oil claims to the states. His efforts were unsuccessful.

His performance was surpassed in August 1957 by Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. Mr. Thurmond held the Senate floor for 24 hours and 18 minutes in an attempt—which failed—to halt the passage of civil rights legislation.

The House of Representatives, because of its much bigger size, has long had strict rules limiting length of oratory by its members.

—By TOM HAWKINS

News Quiz

Nation's Lawmakers

1. Tell of a congressional dispute that is almost certain to arise in connection with national defense.
2. Give arguments for and against sizable foreign aid expenditures.
3. Tell of a basic farm problem that remains unsolved.
4. In the field of labor relations, mention at least 2 issues that undoubtedly will come up in Congress.
5. What attitude about federal spending has President Eisenhower recently expressed? What are some of the views among lawmakers on this subject?
6. Briefly describe the civil rights controversy that is expected to arise in Congress.
7. Give arguments for and against a rule change that would make it easier to limit debate in the Senate.
8. Why is it likely that the Democrats, despite their large congressional majority, won't have their own way on every issue?

Discussion

1. In your opinion, what is the most important of the questions that are expected to come before Congress? Explain your position.
2. Do you or do you not think it should be made easier to curb debate in the Senate? Give reasons for your answer.

France's Comeback

1. List a number of striking changes that have taken place in France during the past year.
2. Tell of the developments which brought Charles de Gaulle to power.
3. What steps has he taken to strengthen the government inside France?
4. Describe De Gaulle's actions regarding his nation's colonial holdings.
5. What are the French leader's views on the Algerian problem?
6. How do the French hope to improve their economic situation?
7. What kind of relationship does France have today with West Germany?
8. How does De Gaulle differ with certain members of the National Assembly?

Discussion

1. What do you consider De Gaulle's greatest achievement to date? Why?
2. Do you think that De Gaulle, following his present policy in Algeria, will be able to bring the conflict there to an end? Why or why not?

Miscellaneous

1. How do we and the Soviets, on the basis of known facts and estimates, compare in the field of satellites and missiles?
2. What appears to be the 1959 outlook in prices and business activity?
3. Tell what congressional posts are held by: Sam Rayburn; Richard Nixon; Lyndon Johnson; Joseph Martin.
4. Why do certain congressmen want to curb the powers of the House Rules Committee? What do opponents say?
5. Briefly state problems faced by Latin American lands.
6. Relate some past instances when the filibuster was used to block action by the U. S. Senate.

References

- "France Starts Over," by Ernest O. Hauser, *Saturday Evening Post*, November 15.
- "Six-Month March of De Gaulle," *New York Times Magazine*, December 7.

Answers to Know That Word

1. (b) voters; 2. (d) lengthy speech;
3. (c) a measure, often controversial, attached to a popular bill; 4. (a) law;
5. (b) agricultural; 6. (c) weakening;
7. (a) very important.

If You Would Like to Be a Real Estate Agent

THERE is much more to being a realtor than selling houses and other properties to customers.

If you choose this field, you may start your day by getting in touch with a homeowner who wishes to sell his property. You will get all the information you can about his property, and *appraise* its value on today's market.

When you and the owner have agreed on a selling price and your fee for making the sale, you will begin the search for a buyer. You may go over a list of persons interested in purchasing the type of home you have to offer. Or you may place advertisements in a local paper.

When you find a buyer for the home, you must draw up a sales contract, or have this done by a lawyer. Next, you will, in most cases, work out an arrangement with your client for financing the deal through a bank or some other financial institution.

Chances are that the buyer will also want the title, or legal certificate of ownership, searched to make certain that the home is free of old debts and other legal liabilities. Generally, a lawyer must be called in to perform this task. Finally, you may be called upon to take care of the new owner's insurance needs.

Instead of working as a general real estate agent, you may want to specialize in a particular branch of the work, such as appraising, property management, or city planning.

The *appraiser* determines the value

of property of all kinds. A *property manager* acts as overseer of large commercial and residential developments. The *city planner* helps lay out public or large-scale private housing projects.

Qualifications. The ability to get along well with people and a genuine interest in their needs is an absolute "must" for success in this work.

Training. While in high school, take courses in typing and any business subject that may be offered. A college



PROPERTY MANAGERS with plans of building they may supervise

education is not required in the real estate field, though it is an asset. A number of colleges offer valuable courses related to this occupation.

Actually, most real estate agents learn the vocation by working with experienced personnel, or through special training programs offered by firms engaged in this business. You will find a knowledge of typing almost indispensable in getting your first job.

Then, as you learn something about the work, you will gradually be given duties more closely related to real estate.

In many states agents in this field must be licensed before they can work as a broker or salesman. Sometimes a prospective agent must pass an examination; in other instances, licensing is based on experience. To find out the requirements in your state, write to the State Real Estate Commission in your state capital.

Job outlook. Employment prospects in real estate are excellent, because property sales continue to climb along with population growth year after year. Women, as well as men, can have successful careers in this work, and the number of feminine agents is growing rapidly.

Earnings. As a beginner you are likely to earn around \$3,000 a year. When you become an experienced agent, you will, in most cases, be paid on a commission basis. A majority of agents now earn between \$6,000 and \$10,000 a year.

Facts to weigh. Earnings are comparatively good, and only a limited amount of formal training is required.

But the income of a real estate agent is uncertain. When business is booming, jobs are plentiful and earnings are high. During a business slump, work is scarce and incomes are often low.

More information. Talk to real estate agents in your community.

—By ANTON BERLE

